

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and substitute new Claims 16 to 26 therefor, as follows:

1. to 15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) An ink tank for use in an inkjet printing apparatus, wherein the inkjet printing apparatus includes a light emitting section and a light receiving section, and an inkjet head to which ink in said ink tank is supplied, said ink tank comprising:

an ink accommodating chamber directly accommodating ink, said ink accommodating chamber having a light transmittance portion; and

an optical reflector disposed so that a reflecting surface thereof faces an interior of said ink accommodating chamber to make an optical path formed by an incidence path and a reflection path, wherein the incidence path comprises a path along which a light emitted from the light emitting section passes through the light transmittance portion and reaches the reflecting surface, and wherein the reflection path comprises a path along which a reflected light by the reflecting surface passes through the light transmittance portion again and reaches the light receiving section;

wherein said optical reflector is disposed so that its reflecting surface crosses a vertical direction when said ink tank is placed in a use position in the inkjet printing apparatus.

17. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 16, wherein said optical reflector is disposed so that its reflecting surface faces the vertical direction when said ink tank is placed in the use position.

18. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 16,
wherein the light emitted from the light emitting section reaches the reflecting surface along the incidence path in which ink and air thereon are present, and the reflected light reaches the light receiving section along the reflection path in which air and ink are present, the reflection path being almost the same as the incidence path, and
wherein said optical reflector is disposed on a portion to cause a change in received light quantity by the light receiving section, the change in received light quantity being based on a change of distance over which the light travels through the ink, the change of distance being based on a change of an ink level with a use of the ink.

19. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 16, wherein said optical reflector is integrated with an information storage element to construct an ink remaining amount sensing module.

20. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 19, wherein the ink remaining amount sensing module is disposed to face an outer surface of a housing of said ink tank, and is constructed to transmit and receive information to and from an external device via an electrical contact disposed on a part facing the outer surface.

21. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 19, wherein the ink remaining amount sensing module is disposed on an outer surface of a housing of said ink tank, and is constructed to transmit and receive information to and from an external device in a non-contact manner.

22. (New) An ink tank for use in an inkjet printing apparatus, wherein the inkjet printing apparatus includes a light emitting section and a light receiving section, and an inkjet head to which ink in said ink tank is supplied, said ink tank comprising:

an ink accommodating chamber directly accommodating ink, said ink accommodating chamber having a light transmittance portion; and

an optical reflector disposed so that a reflecting surface thereof faces an interior of said ink accommodating chamber, wherein the reflecting surface reflects light emitted from the light emitting section through the light transmittance portion and incident on the reflecting surface, and reflects the incident light toward the light receiving section through the light transmittance portion again;

wherein said optical reflector is disposed so that both of an incidence path from the light emitting section to the reflecting surface and a reflection path from the reflecting surface to the light transmittance portion cross an ink level, in a measurement state of an amount of ink in said ink tank.

23. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 22, wherein said optical reflector is disposed so that its reflecting surface faces the vertical direction in the measurement state of the amount of ink in said ink tank.

24. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 22, wherein said optical reflector is integrated with an information storage element to construct an ink remaining amount sensing module.

25. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 24, wherein the ink remaining amount sensing module is disposed to face an outer surface of a housing of said ink tank, and is constructed to transmit and receive information to and from an external device via an electrical contact disposed on a part facing the outer surface.

26. (New) An ink tank according to Claim 24, wherein the ink remaining amount sensing module is disposed on an outer surface of a housing of said ink tank, and is constructed to transmit and receive information to and from an external device in a non-contact manner.